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COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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DOD Okays Extra Money For 'Senior Enlisted' Designees

DOD has authorized additional $150 monthly compensation to each senior enlisted man who is designated his service's Sergeant Major or its equivalent, beginning Jan. 1.

The program will initially be under Proficiency Pay for Superior Performance.

Defense's authorization recognizes the additional responsibilities and personal expenses involved in the position. The senior enlisted man basically provides liaison between enlisted personnel and the military chief of his service, among other duties.

The Marine Corps has maintained a Sergeant Major billet for many years. The present incumbent is Sgt. Maj. Herbert J. Sweet. Army Sgt. Maj. William O. Wooldridge fills the position for his service. Navy and Air Force have announced plans to establish a similar senior enlisted position.

Air Force Plans Purchase of 176 O-2 'Super Skymaster' Aircraft

The Air Force is purchasing 176 Cessna "Super Skymaster" O-2 aircraft modified to military specifications for use primarily in forward air controller, liaison and observation functions.

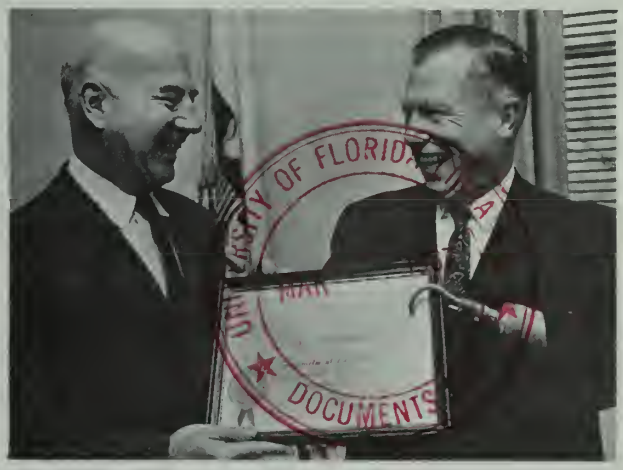
A $4.5-million letter contract was awarded to Cessna Aircraft Co. as part of an estimated $11.7 million contract to procure the O-2 as a one-for-one replacement for the O-1 "Bird Dog" now used in the airborne forward air controller missions in Vietnam.

First production aircraft will be available to begin training in the spring of 1967. The first squadron is scheduled to be operational in mid-1967.

A few of the O-2 being purchased will be modified for the psychological warfare role.

The O-2 has four wing pylons for carrying rockets, flares, and other light conventional ordnance including a 7.62 mm minigun. Special equipment includes camera mounting provisions and multi-frequency radio equipment for the Forward Air Controller role.

A high-wing, all-metal aircraft with retractable tricycle landing gear, the O-2 will be able to take off and land in less than 1,000 feet and can operate at speeds between 60 and 200 miles an hour.



EMPLOYMENT AWARD—Paul R. Ignatius, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), left, receives a commendation from Harold Russell, Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, citing DOD for its effort to increase employment opportunities for the disabled.

Navy to Assume Control Of Georgia Air Force Base

The Navy is scheduled to take control of Turner AFB, Ga., from the Air Force, July 1, renaming the installation Naval Air Station, Albany.

Air Force has announced a late March inactivation date for the 484th Bomb Wing, involving some 1,500 persons.

Fifteen KC-135s of the 919th Air Refueling Sq and about 450 personnel will go to the 306th Bomb Wing, McCoy AFB, Fla., and the wing's B-52s will be assigned to the 454th Bomb Wing, Columbus AFB, Miss.

The Navy will move units from NAS Sanford, Fla., to Turner, resulting in a substantial savings by eliminating planned military construction now required at Sanford. The move will also provide a more modern, larger facility with a greater potential for future growth, if required.

NAS Sanford is now being used as the single site for supporting RA-5C aircraft Reconnaissance Attack Squadrons of both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. The units comprise Recon Attack Wing ONE.

The move to Turner is expected to take at least nine months, and involve more than 3000 enlisted men and 400 officers.

Washington Memos

DOD STATISTICS REVEAL that 6,516 U.S. service personnel have lost their lives in RVN through hostile force actions between Jan. 1, 1961 through Dec. 24, 1966. Another 1,488 have lost their lives through non-hostile action causes.

OPERATION DEEP FREEZE for 1966-67 begins second decade of Seabee participation in this continuing program of scientific study and exploration of the Antarctic continent. Seabees first landed on Antarctica in 1947 as part of Navy's Operation High Jump expedition led by RAdm. Richard E. Byrd.

TOTAL NUMERICAL STRENGTH of armed forces on Nov. 30, 1966, was 3,326,491, an increase of 39,494 from previous month's strength. The preliminary figure shows 1,397,971 assigned to Army; 902,463, Air Force; 746,703, Navy; and 279,354, Marine Corps.

AIR FORCE'S FY 68 Airman Proficiency Pay Program will add 10 specialties to the P-1 $30 list and will raise 14 specialties from P-1 to the P-2 $60 rate. The $30 monthly differential pay increases will be awarded to 20,000 airmen. USAF has been urging a proficiency pay program expansion as a means to bolster declining reenlistment rates.

RETIRING NAVAL RESEARCH Laboratory scientist Dr. Robert M. Page received special tribute from President Johnson. Letter from President noted Dr. Page's career was an example for many who have chosen public service careers. In 40 years at the laboratory, Dr. Page received more than 50 patents including practically all basic radar patents. He has been Director of Research at the Wash., D.C., activity since 1957.

A BENJAMIN F. CASTLE Memorial Award has been established by the West Point Society of D.C. The annual award will be given to a U.S. Military Academy graduate who exemplifies the academy's ideals in military or civilian life. Presentation will be at the D.C. chapter's Washington Founder's Day Dinner.

AIR FORCE'S aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, needs airmen first class or staff sergeants possessing AFSC 42350 and 43250/70. Cutoff for these AFSCs is March 15, 1967. All airmen selected will serve a 24-month tour.

NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH Institute has established a Nursing Research Division as part of the Department of Behavioral Sciences. Purpose is to conduct critical, systematic, and formal inquiry or investigation into nursing in order to obtain facts and discover principles that will lead to the improvement of education and practice for welfare of the patient.

M-14 RIFLE STOCKS may be repaired, saving money and alleviating serious stock shortages, using method suggested by Marine SSgt. J. N. Chai, MCRD San Diego. Army and Seabee units are testing the method that utilizes liquid fiber glass.

ALASKAN COMMAND, OLDEST unified command under Department of Defense and only unified command located entirely in one state or territory, celebrated 20th anniversary Jan. 1. ALCOM, with headquarters at Elmendorf AFB, near Anchorage, was established by Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1947.

A NEW $1.8 MILLION computer has been added to the Navy Ships Parts Control Center, Mechanicsburg, Pa., to assist in handling expanding data processing workload. It is part of a $13.5 million computer network operated by the center. System is capable of preparing lists of repair parts for ships and shore stations, plus a number of statistical and management reports and various types of catalogs.

CEREMONIES WILL BE held in Lexington, Va., Oct. 24, commemorating the first-day issuance of a new 20-cent George Catlett Marshall stamp. The late General of the Army served as Army Chief of Staff during World War II and later as Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State and President of the American Red Cross.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE in Vietnam the Air Force's Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service recorded its 600th worldwide "save" during 1966. The Service's 1966 total jumped from 599 to 612 on one mission on Dec. 24 when a civilian CL-44 crashed into a Vietnamese village and burst into flames. Two rescue HH-43F helicopters rushed in and removed 13 injured Vietnamese villagers from the burning crash site to a Marine field hospital.

2ND SUPPLY & TRANSPORTATION Bn., 2nd Infantry Div. Support Command has completed community relations project in which they hauled 8 million seedling trees for planting throughout the Paju Gun, Korea, area in which the division is located.

RVN'S SECOND HIGHEST Award Medal of Honor, Second Class, has been bestowed upon Dental Technician Third Class Thomas L. Brown, USN, "for unselfish devotion in bringing better health and understanding to the Vietnamese people." Award was presented by Capt. Nguyen Van An, provincial chief in provincial capital of Hoc Mon.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AND Air Force Exchange Service will be officially relocated Jan. 16 from 8 W. 14th St., New York City to the Oak Cliff Bank Tower, 400 S. Zangs Blvd., Dallas, Tex. 75208.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

AN ASIAN VIEW OF VIETNAM

Thanat Khoman, Foreign Minister of Thailand, reviewed the Vietnam situation in an address to the United Nations General Assembly. Remarks abridged from his address appear below.

There are a number of reasons why the crisis in Vietnam has so far defied the various and many-sided efforts that have been made to solve it on a just and reasonable basis.

In the first place, the instigators who planned and are waging the war of aggression against South Vietnam have so far entertained a hope that they might be able to attain their objective of ultimately seizing that country and finally placing it under their ruthless totalitarian rule. That is why they still persist in their infiltration, subversion and terrorism which have brought untold suffering to their victims.

Ideological and Political Empires

Their hopes, unfortunately, have been kept alive and in fact, fueled by the provision of the necessary means from their allies to wage war. Economic aid as well as military equipment have flowed from external sources into North Vietnam which enable that country to carry on its war of aggression. **For countries siding with the aggressors, it is important that the war in Vietnam must be won by their friends and partners—because victory would further extend their own ideological and political empires.**

Although not all of these Communist countries are prepared to share the cost and bear proportionate sacrifices, they seem to be willing to show their solidarity to the extent of their immediate national interests and practical capability. In respect to propaganda, at least, this is shown by their willingness to blare in unison that the war in Vietnam is a "Holy War of National Liberation." Such actions in effect seek to conceal the stark fact that the people of South Vietnam are being subjected to a war of conquest and colonial expansion from across the northern border.

The well-drilled chorus of martial singers seems to be bent upon pursuing to the end their path of war. They repeatedly have spurned various suggestions for more peaceful approaches. They seem to be fortifying themselves with a belief that by rejecting every peaceful suggestion, they are more likely to attain their war objectives. That is why they have contemptuously brushed aside genuine yearnings for peace with their repetitive statements of arrogant intransigence. **It appears to make no difference to Hanoi and Peking that many of the peaceful overtures they spurn come from fellow Asians. Such behavior conceals not inherent strength but a fundamental weakness which has come to the surface in the case of Communist China, disguised by the euphemism of "great proletarian cultural revolution."**

While the defenders in South Vietnam show their willingness to discuss unconditionally the ways and means to resolve the war peacefully, the aggressors consistently close the door to every probe for negotiation and peaceful settlement.

The intransigence of the aggressors, moreover, has been encouraged by small and misguided minorities in various countries. Although these elements are least familiar with the true facts of the situation, they nevertheless allow themselves to be carried away by abstract and unrealistic constructions. Suggestions and opinions from these quarters benefit no one except the enemies of freedom and liberty.

It is tragic but true that while innocent victims are daily maimed, molested and massacred by fanatic terrorists, certain misinformed persons and groups commiserate not with the unfortunate victims, but rather with those who kill, torture and terrorize. Others advocate courses of action which would in effect sacrifice the victims and condone aggression. **Such divergent voices are comparatively few in number, but, unfortunately, they have helped further the erroneous impression that the aggressors can count upon the defenders of freedom to become wearied of war and ultimately yield to force.**

In the face of these divergencies and dissents, it is the hope of all freedom-loving people that the South Vietnamese who are fighting for their survival and liberty will persevere so as to inspire the confidence of all who support them in this vital struggle.

A Just Solution to Vietnam War

A truly just solution to the Vietnam war must guarantee that aggression shall not be rewarded—and that the South Vietnamese people will preserve their rights of self-determination. They must not be delivered with bound hands and feet to the aggressors.

No one has the right to sell away the inherent right of South Vietnam—or, for that matter, any country—to exist and survive as a free and sovereign nation. If such an unfortunate precedent were to be created now, the survival of many other nations would become greatly compromised.

As for the aggressors, although they deserve to be punished for their crimes, the free world should be farsighted enough not to be vengeful and should not seek to bring about their destruction. Rather it would be in the interests of all to persuade them to renounce their expansionist designs and join hands with other peace-loving nations in building a future of peace, progress and prosperity.

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SAC Schedules April Competition In Missile Combat

Strategic Air Command's top missile men will compete for the first time, April 3-7, to determine the command's best missile wing, combat crew and target alignment team.

Gen. John D. Ryan, SAC commander in chief, said the first SAC Missile Combat Competition will take place at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Participating will be two combat crews and one target alignment team from each of the six Minuteman and three Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile wings.

No missiles will be launched during the competition. Instead, combat crews will match skills in three missile trainer exercises while each target alignment team aligns one missile at a Vandenberg AFB silo.

The missile trainers are electronic simulators that are virtually identical to launch control capsules at SAC's combat ready ICBM wings.

Each missile wing has until Feb. 1 to select its two combat crews and one target alignment team. Selection criteria will be determined at base level.

AF Plans to Recall Some Capts., Lieuts.

Air Force plans to recall about 100 captains and lieutenants between now and June 30 under a limited voluntary recall program.

The greatest need is for pilots but a number of non-rated fields are also open.

Well-qualified Reserve officers, including non-prior service officers, who possess the following skills will be considered: development engineering, weapons director, aircraft maintenance, civil engineering, communications-electronics, intelligence, munitions and manpower management.

Selected officers will be called to active duty for an indefinite period in Career Reserve status.

AIR FORCE CROSS—Maj. Wayne N. Whatley, USAF, is the 19th member of the Air Force to receive that service's highest award, the Air Force Cross. He was cited for his actions during a successful F-105 strike against heavily defended fuel depot in North Vietnam. Of the 19 crosses awarded to date, 13 have been awarded posthumously.

Lightning-Proof Fuel Filler Cap Under Military Study

An added degree of safety to both military and civilian aircraft fuel systems is expected from development of a lightning-proof fuel filler cap for the Air Force.

Tests have proved that the filler cap will not cause sparks inside the aircraft fuel tank when the cap is struck by man-made lightning.

Special provisions have been made to seal the cap against high pressures resulting from a lightning strike. In addition, the parts of the cap inside the fuel tank are nonmetallic.

The new cap is interchangeable with many of those now used on aircraft.

It was developed for the Air Force by the Systems Engineering Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Tests were conducted at the Lightning and Transients Research Institute, Minneapolis, Minn.

Personnel Officer Course Slated at Amarillo AFB

A four-week Personnel Staff Officer Course for Air Force officers in ranks captain through lieutenant colonel will start in September at Amarillo AFB, Tex.

The course will be offered to officers possessing AFSCs 7324, 7311 and 7316.

Subject matter will include personal affairs, officer and airman procurement, classification, assignment, personnel planning functions, and contingency and war planning.

Air Force Studies Methods To Cut 'Bird Collisions'

The Air Force has several measures under consideration to reduce or eliminate "bird collisions" with aircraft.

These collisions, 839 reported in 1965, cost the Air Force almost $10-million a year, according to the Office of Aerospace Research.

Means under consideration to combat the intruders include loud "cracker shells" fired from guns, draining of ponds near runways and the cutting of weeds.

Major offender is the starling, although sea gulls, snow geese, sparrows and blackbirds have proved troublesome.

25 Doctors Get First-Hand Training in Arctic Survival

Twenty-five doctors from the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, Tex., recently spent a night sleeping in snow huts on a frozen lake near Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, as part of a seven-day program of Arctic survival training.

The Alaskan training is conducted each year by the Air Force Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory at Ft. Wainwright. The purpose is to show the doctors what an air crew is up against when stranded in the Arctic with minimal equipment.

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